

A NEW SPECIES OF HIDALGOA (ASTERACEAE, COREOPSIDEAE) FROM
SOUTHERN MEXICO

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Attempts to identify collections from southern Veracruz along Rio Uxpanapa by Dr. Tom Wendt and assistants has revealed the following novelty.

HIDALGOA USPANAPA B. Turner, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

H. breedlovei Sherff similis sed flosculis radiatis 6-8, 23-40 mm longis luteis ubi exsiccatis et flosculis disci majoribus 14-15 longis lobis ca 2 mm longis differt.

Clambering glabrous vine in trees, the stems anchored by twisting petioles. Leaves opposite throughout, 6-10 cm long, 6-9 cm wide, 3-foliolate; leaflets ovate, the terminal ones petiolate, 4.5-6.5 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, glabrous throughout, the surfaces finely pustulate-punctate on both surfaces, the margins irregularly serrulate. Heads single, 5-8 cm wide across the rays, axillary on peduncles 10-20 cm long. Involucres 4-seriate, the bracts 4 or 5 in each of 4 alternating series, totaling 18-20 in all, the individual bracts linear-oblongate to linear-lanceolate, 13-25 mm long, 1-4 mm wide, glabrous and with strong medial nerves, the outer series somewhat spreading (but not reflexed), the inner series erect. Receptacular bracts scarious, shorter than the florets. Ray florets 6-8, pistillate, fertile, the ligules described as "anaranjadas" but drying bright yellow, 2.5-4.0 cm long, 0.8-1.0 cm wide. Disk florets 40-60, sterile, the corollas yellow, ca 15 mm long, the lobes smooth, ca 3 mm long. Anther appendages ca 0.5 mm long, the exterior surfaces covered with numerous rounded sessile brown glands. Style branches, the pubescent portion, ca 4 mm long, most of these lobed or bifid at the apex for 0.5-1.0 mm. Achenes (immature) glabrous, the apical cusps ca 3 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. VERACRUZ: Mopio. de Minatitlan, Rio Uxpanapa, desde el polado de Uxpanapa arriba, hasta los limites con Oaxaca. Vegetacion riparia de Ficus, Inga, Lindenia, etc. (17° 12' N, 94° 10' W), 130 m, 14 Jul 1980, Tom Wendt et al. 2568 (holotype, TEX; isotype MEXU).

Additional specimen examined: MEXICO. CHIAPAS: Mpio. Berriozabal, 13 km N of Berriozabal, limestone fissured ridge, lower montane rainforest, 900 m, 21 Nov 1972, Breedlove & Dressler 29706 (LL).

The species superficially resembles H. breedlovei but is readily distinguished by its longer rays (25-40 mm long vs 20-25 mm) which dry bright yellow (vs purplish or lavender), 4-5 seriate involucre of ca 20, mostly linear-lanceolate, bracts which are scarcely reflexed and by the larger disk corollas (ca 15 mm long vs 8-10 mm) with longer lobes, etc.

According to Dr. Wendt's field notes appended to the holotype it "appears to be a new sp: larger ligules than any spp.; 6-8 rays, but larger than H. breedlovei and with broad-linear bracts, strongly punctate leaves, etc." All of which is so, not to mention the other characters discussed above. He also notes that typical H. ternata occurs in the general region, but specimens of H. breedlovei have not been detected.

It was my intention to name this for the principal collector but he proposed the name given here, appropriate perhaps, for it is probably a regional endemic, although a single collection is also known from adjacent Chiapas.

Finally, it should be mentioned that, among the 4 species of Hidalgoa recognized for Mexico by the present author, H. breedlovei and H. ternata Llave have orange ray florets that dry reddish or violet, while H. pentameria Sherff and H. uspanapa have orange-yellow rays that dry bright yellow.

I am grateful to Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis and to Tom Wendt for discussions relating to the species as it occurs in nature. Nancy Webber provided the illustration.

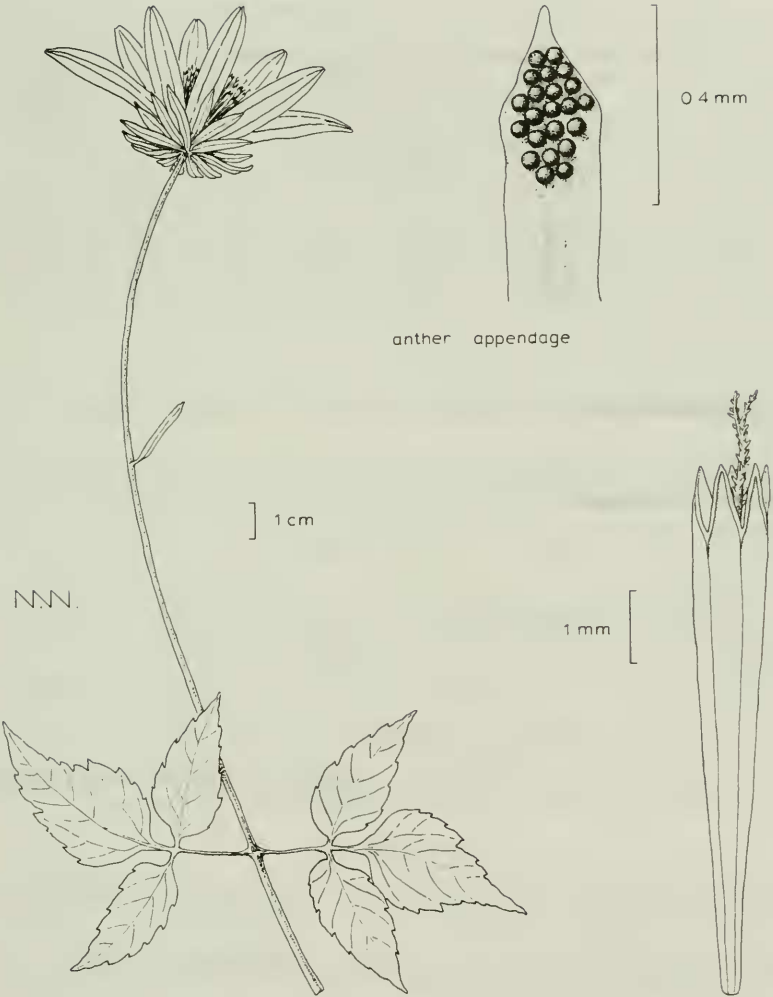


Fig 1, *Hidalgoa uspanapa*, from holotype